CLAIMS OF THE APPLICATION

1. (Currently amended) A compound which is a crystalline Form Z of ~~rabeprazole~~ 2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium, having substantially the same X-ray diffraction pattern as shown in Figure 1.

2. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 having an X-ray diffraction pattern, expressed in terms of 2 theta angles, that includes four or more peaks selected from the group consisting of 4.69±0.09, 9.07±0.09, 9.42±0.09, 11.25±0.09, 14.71±0.09, 16.24±0.09, 17.26±0.09, 18.52±0.09, 19.32±0.09, 19.63±0.09, 19.92±0.09, 20.80±0.09, 21.48±0.09, 23.07±0.09, 24.81±0.09, 25.70±0.09, 27.47±0.09, 30.01±0.09, 30.65±0.09, 33.37±0.09, and 36.95±0.09.

3. (Original) The compound of claim 2 having an X-ray diffraction pattern expressed in terms of 2 theta angles and obtained with a diffractometer equipped with a Cu K alpha-1 radiation source, wherein said X-ray powder diffraction pattern includes five or more peaks selected from the group consisting of peaks with 2 theta angles of about 4.694, 9.070, 9.417, 11.254, 14.712, 16.241, 17.264, 18.522, 18.522, 19.320, 19.626, 19.920, 20.802, 21.477, 23.073, 24.814, 25.702, 27.470, 30.009, 30.653, 33.365, and 36.950.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, which has an endo-exo pattern with identified peaks of about 106.5° C and 228.8° C in its differential scanning calorimetry thermogram.

6. (Currently amended) A composition comprising ~~rabeprazole~~ 2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium as a solid, wherein at least 80% by weight of said sold rabeprazole sodium is a

crystalline Form Z of rabeprazole sodium, having substantially the same X-ray diffraction pattern as shown in Figure 1.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Rabeprazole~~ 2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium of claim 6, wherein at least 90% by weight of said solid ~~rabeprazole~~ 2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium is the crystalline Form Z.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Rabeprazole~~ 2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium of claim 6, wherein at least 95% by weight of said solid ~~rabeprazole~~ 2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium is the crystalline Form Z.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Rabeprazole~~ 2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium of claim 6, wherein at least 99% by weight of said solid ~~rabeprazole~~ 2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium is the crystalline Form Z.

10-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, having substantially the same differential scanning calorimetry curve as shown in Figure 2.

27. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, having a melting point of about 224-230° C.